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Sent: 1/20/2012 1:10:37 PM

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CC:
Subject: Office of Public Affairs Salient Issues for Week Ending January 20, 2012

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AFFAIRS

Week Ending January 20, 2012

EPA Announcement on Dimock Triggers Media Blitz - A Region 3 news release announcing EPA plans to perform water sampling at 61 homes in Dimock, Pa. led to numerous media inquiries from local and national news media including Associated Press, Philadelphia Inquirer, Scranton Times-Tribune, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, and CBS-News. EPA's decision to conduct sampling was based on EPA's review of data provided by residents, Cabot Oil and Gas, and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection. The news release also announced that EPA is taking action to ensure delivery of temporary water supplies to four homes where data indicates residents' well water contains levels of contaminants that pose a health concern. As part of the media rollout, RA Shawn Garvin provided background interviews to reporters from the Philadelphia Inquirer and the Scranton Times-Tribune. Much of the news coverage focused on how Dimock residents were pleased to see that EPA was getting more involved in assessing water quality in their community. (Roy Seneca, 814-5567 and Terri White, 814-5523)

The Reading Eagle Reported on the Enforcement Action Against a Reading, Pa. Apartment House Owner on Lead Paint Disclosure Violations - Wyomissing Park Apartments failed to provide required information about lead-based paint hazards in 13 residential leases between 2007 and 2009. The company paid a penalty of \$26,880. The Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard Reduction Act of 1992 protects renters and property buyers of homes built before 1978 by requiring the disclosure of known lead-based paint hazards. (Donna Heron, 814-5113)

Regional Coverage on the Need to Test for Radon Continues - To promote national Radon Action Month, this week the region sent its second radon press release encouraging testing. We also gave two radio interviews: one with WTOP, DC's all-news-radio station, and another with WFIR's talk radio in Roanoke, Va. (Bonnie Smith, 814-5543 and Michelle Moyer, 814-2098)

Public Hearing in Philadelphia Draws Local Media - EPA and the National Highway Transportation

Safety Administration held a public hearing in Philadelphia on January 19 on proposed standards to improve fuel economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions covering vehicle model years 2017 through 2025. The proposed standards would apply to passenger cars, light duty trucks and medium duty passenger vehicles. The proposed new standards will roughly double the fuel economy from the current level. 250 individuals signed up to speak at the hearing which was covered by ABC-TV, KYW-News Radio, WHYY/NPR, and in Philadelphia Inquirer reporter Sandy Bauers' blog. (Bonnie Smith, 814-5543)

PRESS RELEASES

Jan. 17 EPA, NHTSA public hearing in Philadelphia Jan. 19: Proposed new standards to improve fuel economy and reduce greenhouse gas emissions (Smith)

EPA Recommends Radon Testing in January (Smith)

Jan. 19 EPA to Begin Sampling Water at Some Residences in Dimock, Pa. (White)